Dillon Wasko

Field Experience

Journal Entry 1

On the first day of my sophomore field experience, I walked into Aberdeen Roncalli and I immediately recalled multiple high school memories. From being a football player to eating in the cafeteria I felt as if I was a student again. This was a very exciting time for me because I was officially taking my first step to becoming a teacher. I loved feeling a sense of importance and I was now referred to as Mr. Wasko.

Once I entered, I received my visitor pass and asked for directions to Mrs. Martin’s class. I then walked into the wrong room and was redirected to my Anatomy and Physiology class. It was a bit surprising to see the student’s use of technology and the classrooms advancement as a whole. Each student in the class had their own laptop which is theirs to use for the year. The school is rather old but it has a lot of modern day updates. The classroom was equipped with ten computers, outlets at all of the lab tables, and power points proposed by a projector were used. The use of technology keeps increasing in this world and it is revolutionizing teaching. From smartphones to tablets, and even smart TV’s. The world of teaching is altering and we as individuals need to understand the importance of this change. By understanding how to use technology you can have a better connection with your students by making class specialized and more entertaining.

I was not used to seeing students in uniforms but it has grown on me a bit. It was rather weird because 90% of the class was in uniform while the rest of the class was in sweatpants/casual clothes. Each student has three days a semester that they don’t have to wear uniform and I thought this was a little different. I understand the student freedom not to always dress up but I don’t really understand the whole idea. I thought it made the students look very professional coming from a Sioux Falls Roosevelt high school were the class of seniors didn’t care half the time. The environment of the class room as a whole was definitely mature but it was still high school. I thought the class was well balanced but rather small, the school was not a big but it was a good fit for me. I would love to teach in a private school but when parents have to pay for students to go to school I think it is a little weird. I am not biased to either school in anyway but I do not think the education was any better. I did feel that the class was more focused upon arrival and most of the students took the class serious. It seemed as if many of the students were well focused on pursuing their future careers in college and this was also a good sight to see. When I arrived I was wearing a polo and khakis but I felt a bit underdressed.

I loved the energy Mrs. Martin brought to the classroom from the beginning of class to the end. She opened with a few thought provoking questions and she also found ways to get student’s involved in the learning process as well. She asked for volunteers and there was at least ten hands raised and that’s when I realized that ‘wow’ students must really enjoy her class. She was a friend to the students but still a teacher and a guidance for the students. She was a strong advocate in teaching the whole student. I feel that by teaching in a private school you have more leeway with teaching biology. When you are able to involve religion into teaching biology rather than just scientific facts students can develop a better understanding of the study of life. Mrs. Martin also believed that by teaching the whole student her kids will then be more prepared to enter the workforce or to pursue future degrees in college as well. I agreed one hundred percent with this statement and I believe she is on to something. Holistic teaching may be frowned upon by strict guideline teachers but when developing a person you need to show the benefits of everything.

I was introduced to the classroom and I gave them a short background of me and what I am striving to become. I felt that the class took a bit of an interest to me but at the same time I am sure they expected me to do more than to just observe. I am looking forward to the day were I can officially began my student teaching because I felt ready to go ahead and teach that day. Maybe not at that exact moment but this coming semester. I have grown a lot and the more public speaking I do the more confident I become in my own abilities. I have been the kind of person to over think things and to become shy in the past but this is not me anymore. I have found myself and by having that self-confidence I feel that I can focus on the material at hand rather than how I am being judged. I had a great first day and the process as a whole was easy and rather enjoyable. I cannot wait to go back and visit Mrs. Martin and her class this coming spring because I feel that I left on a positive note. I would love to do my student teaching with her someday but that is a ways out but an exciting thing to think/talk about. I loved my first day and the whole process was smooth after that point. I had a great teacher and class to observe and I feel that I did end up gaining a lot from this experience. I will make sure I send out good recommendations for others to follow and observe Mrs. Martin.